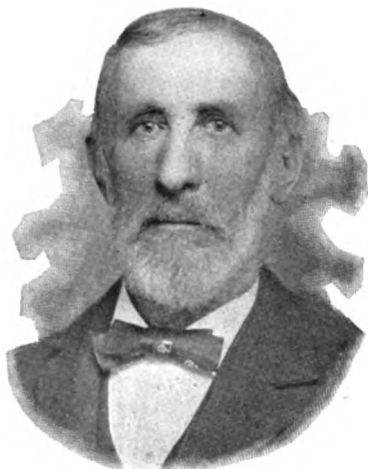


HON. GEORGE ALLEN.

George Allen was born in Dedham, Mass., September 16, 1831, and lived in the town of Dedham with his parents until 1843, when they removed to Andover, where the young man was employed in the woolen mills until he was 16 years of age. He then spent three terms at the Philip Academy, completing the education begun at Dedham. He apprenticed himself to a blacksmith, learning the trade, and afterwards worked some time in a machine shop, acquiring the knowledge which afterward stood him in good stead when his mind turned toward mechanical inventions. From the latter he went into the manufacture of carriages and wagons, in 1852, in North Reading, Mass., in 1857 buying out a large carriage and wagon manufactory located in Winchester, Mass. He

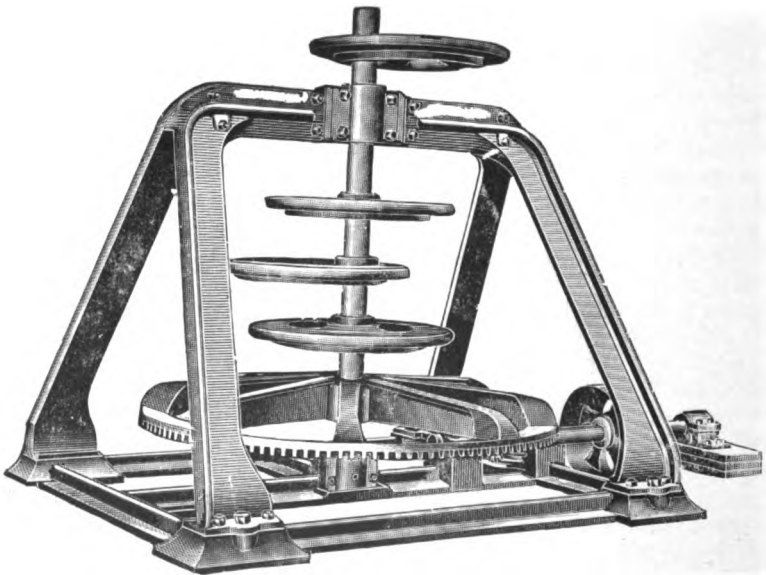
continued successfully in this line of business until February, 1865, and in that year migrated to Franklin, his first visit to the Pennsylvania Oil Regions. Being favorably impressed with the hustle and business life of the Oil Regions, he decided to remain. He first tried his hand at speculation in oil, but this proving unsuccessful, in the fall of 1865, he embarked in the mercantile business in Franklin, continuing in the same until 1887, a successful period of 22 years. During all these years, however, Mr. Allen was also engaged in the production of heavy oil, his interests therein being on the Galloway tract and on the Point at Franklin. Likewise, during this same period, he was interested successfully in refining oil. In the summer of 1884, a refinery in which Mr. Allen was interested was consumed by fire, as well as a pumping rig connected to their wells. The refinery was at once rebuilt, but Mr. Allen's partners objected to the rebuilding of the pumping rig, owing to the amount of money required and the small production of the wells upon which the power was to operate. This fact set Mr. Allen to thinking of the possibility of devising ways and means to provide a pumping power for wells which would be at once cheap and effective. His inventive genius finally evolved the first disc pumping power built, costing something like \$100, and which proved to be a greater success than his most sanguine hopes had anticipated. The success of the power led to some improvements, and finally Mr. Allen took out letters patent upon the appliances for pumping wells, among them being the noted eccentric power, which has now come into general use in every country or place where oil is produced, including foreign countries. The power had the effect of materially cheapening the charge for lifting the oil after the completion of a well, for, by it, a number of wells could be connected up with rods and operated at a nominal cost. Mr. Allen is justly regarded as having given the trade a boon in this invention, and it is one which makes possible the operation of small wells in localities where the expense of working them singly would more than eat up the proceeds from the production

of oil. At the time Mr. Allen built and perfected his power, the ordinary pumping power cost from \$2,000 to \$3,000, and was generally beyond the purchasing power of the average producer. But now Mr. Allen's improved power can be bought for from \$200 to \$350, and their almost universal use in all fields attests their popularity with the trade. Like all valuable inventions, there have been numerous infringements; in the litigation following, Mr. Allen has always defended his patents.

Mr. Allen was elected Mayor of Franklin in 1883 and 1884, giving the city one of the very best administrations it has ever had, the incumbent being possessed of thorough, wise, conservative executive ability, which was justly exercised. He has also been a member of the Councils, and was one of the Pennsylvania Commissioners to the Paris Exposition in 1889. He has always been an uncompromising Republican, voting for Fremont and every Republican candidate since then. He is a promoter of manufacturing industries and Franklin's interests generally; is a stockholder in the Franklin Steel Casting Company, stockholder and director in the Exchange Bank, and secretary of the Franklin Paving Brick Company.

Mr. Allen was married to Miss Annie B. Weston, of North Reading, Mass., a daughter of Captain Charles Weston, May 28, 1855, and to them one son, Edward, aged 43 years, has been born. Mr. Allen makes his home at 1322 Liberty street, Franklin.

He is regarded as one of Franklin's most prominent citizens, his long residence there having so thoroughly identified him with the interests of the town that he is ever alert for the welfare of the place and has done much towards bringing to the city its substantial prosperity of the present day. Throughout the Oil Regions, as well, is the name of Mr. Allen equally well known, on account of the invention of the pumping power spoken of above, which has come to be one of the most economical adjuncts of the producing business and one which permits the operation of wells which would not prove remunerative if it were necessary to pump them by separate motive power.



ALLEN'S PATENT ECCENTRIC PUMPING POWER, FRANKLIN, PA.

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